

*Replaced
by
Art. 3X*

Claims:

1. A method of providing an accounting service in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of:

5 accessing (M1, M2) a chargeable functionality of said communication system by a user (U), by

authenticating said user (U) by a

authentication/authorization server (AA-S), and

authorizing said access of said user (U) by

10 said authentication/authorization server (AA-S); and

indicating (M2) an accounting server (ACC-1) for the user (U) by said authentication/authorization server

(AA-S), wherein

said accounting server (ACC-1) is physically

15 separated from said authentication/authorization server (AA-S).

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said authentication/authorization server is in a home network 20 of said user.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said chargeable functionality is a visited network of said mobile communication system.

25

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service of said mobile communication system.

30 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said accessing step is performed by sending an authentication/authorization request message (M1) from an authentication/authorization client (AAA-C) to which said

user (**U**) is currently attached to said authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**) which replies by sending an authentication/authorization answer message (**M2**) to said authentication/authorization client (**AAA-C**), 5 and wherein said answer message (**M2**) includes said indication of an accounting server (**ACC-1**) for said user (**U**).

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, 10 wherein said authentication/authorization server directly indicates said accounting server to said authentication/authorization client which is handling said user and keeps a corresponding account.

15 7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising the further step of requesting (**M3**) an accounting for said chargeable functionality from said indicated accounting server (**ACC-1**) by said authentication/authorization client 20 (**AAA-C**).

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein, during said accessing step, said authentication/authorization client receives a ticket indicating that said user has been 25 granted to access said chargeable functionality, and said ticket is sent to said accounting server.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said accounting server checks whether accounting for said user is to be 30 started.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said ticket contains at least one of the information of the group of:

to which user it belongs, when the access was granted, for how long the access was granted, and from which client the access was granted.

5 11. A method according to claim 8 to 10, wherein said ticket is signed by the authentication/authorization server so that it is verified to the accounting server that the authentication/authorization server really has made the ticket.

10

12. A system for providing an accounting service comprising means adapted to perform a method according to any of the claims 1-11.

15 13. An accounting server device comprising means adapted to perform respective steps of a method according to any of the claims 1-11.